



## BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP

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### BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER No. 5

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## Blackburn Shopping Centre – Panel Hearing Announced

The panel hearing on the proposal to build a major shopping centre in Blackburn will commence on **Tuesday 14th June**. It is likely to continue for three or four days. On those days an independent panel of three members, appointed by the Minister, will hear submissions on the proposed rezoning as specified under Amendment RL8 (previously 500). It is essential that all those who wish to put their views be present at the Nunawading Arts Centre during the hearing.

### PLEASE NOTE THE DATES NOW AND ARRANGE TO BE PRESENT!

#### What to do

If you lodged an objection to the proposal you should have received notice of the hearing. However, **in case you didn't OR did not formally object but now wish to do so** — it is desirable that you plan to be present on the morning of 14th June at 9.30 a.m. and contact the Secretary to the Panel, Mr. A. Williams, who will arrange for you to be heard, as far as possible at a mutually convenient time.

If you are unable to be present, or be represented, on the first morning you may contact Mr. Williams, preferably by 9.30 a.m. on subsequent days. Alternatively, contact him in advance at the Ministry for Planning and Environment, 477 Collins Street, Melbourne (628 5179) if you cannot attend in the mornings.

#### Your Presentation

The panel will be impressed by your sincerity, and your concern with the issues involved. Ability as an orator is definitely not a requirement.

It will be of advantage if you cite specific disadvantages to yourself and the community, rather than to generalise. It will be helpful if you commit your views to paper and can give a copy to the panel.

However, none of these things is as important as the fact that you be there to speak to the panel.

If for some reason you are unable to be present in person, you may be represented by another. If you have a friend, or neighbour to speak on your behalf, so much the better. If not, contact the Group and we shall try to get someone to speak for you. (In this situation, please record your views in writing so that we can be sure that they are accurately conveyed to the panel.)

**You must give written authority for another person to represent you.**

#### Your support is vital

Perhaps now, more than at any other time, it is essential that you demonstrate your concern and determination to do something about it. The longer you are able to be at the hearing the better, whether you are making a presentation or not. Your presence will give support and encouragement to other objectors addressing the panel.

#### Getting there . . .

The Arts Centre is at the rear of the Nunawading Municipal Offices, 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. It is not very far from Nunawading railway station (Melways 48 G9) and off-street parking is available. However, should you have problems in getting there, one of the following may be able to assist with transport:

**East of Blackburn Road:** Mrs. A. Clayton (878 6585), Mrs. T. Robinson (878 0518), Mrs. E. Reidy (878 6982), Mrs. C. Haley (878 5350).

**West of Blackburn Road:** Mrs. B. Kempson (877 2635), Mr. F. Pohalski (877 2738), Mrs. V. Wright (877 4096), Mrs. P. Hughes (877 3208).

#### After the Hearing

The panel will, after considering the submissions, report to the Minister Tom Roper, with its recommendations. However it may take some time before a decision is announced. For instance, it is over a year now since the hearing on the 59 streets (Amendment 389) and at the time of writing no decision has been made.

In such circumstances it is necessary for residents to remain alert to political developments and to ensure that your local and State representatives (both present and potential) are left in no doubt as to your views and continuing interest.

If we have reason for concern in this area we shall contact you again . . .

#### A magnificent effort . . .

The Group has been able to prepare a detailed submission thanks to the tremendous assistance given by many individuals, not only in terms of money but in hours of voluntary effort. Some 200 individuals have participated in surveys, research and investigations as well as helping in production of printed material and in general administrative tasks. While we wish to record our grateful thanks through the medium of this Newsletter we also realise that an effort on this scale would not have been possible if the issue had not been the cause of genuine concern and strongly held views throughout the community.

We do not believe that the local Council, or the local Press, have recognised that there is so much genuine concern about this proposal and we will continue our endeavours to convince them of this . . .

**FINALLY, WE ASK YOU AGAIN TO PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE HEARING: TUESDAY 14 JUNE, AND TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND**